

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

8 JANUARY 2018

Present: Councillor P D Simpson, Chair

Councillors: S A Bagshaw
S J Carr
E Cubley
S Easom
D A Elliott (substitute)
R Jackson
P Lally
W J Longdon (substitute)
G Marshall
P J Owen
A W G A Stockwell

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T P Brindley and M Radulovic MBE.

43. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

44. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2017 were confirmed and signed.

45. **REFERENCES**

45.1 Leisure and Environment Committee 7 December 2017 **Colliers Wood – Activity Space**

The Committee was advised of the success in receiving external funding towards the cost of creating an activity space at Colliers Wood. The Friends of Colliers Wood Group had been actively fundraising towards the project and had collected £3,700. Using this sum as match funding, along with a contribution of £6,000 from Caunton Engineering, the Council made a bid to Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd (WREN) for financial assistance. A condition of the award from WREN was that the Council would be required to find 10.75% of this sum as a contributing third party payment and this would come from the Open Spaces revenue budget.

RESOLVED that a supplementary capital estimate of £13,800 be approved to create an activity space at Colliers Wood with funding of £3,700 from the Friends of Colliers Wood Group and £10,100 from WREN.

45.2 Leisure and Environment Committee

7 December 2017

Play Area and Parks/Open space Improvements 2018/19 and 2019.20

The Committee considered works to improve the play areas and parks/open spaces in the borough during the financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20. The Council's Play Strategy 2017-2025 detailed a series of improvement works in the play areas and associated facilities that had been proposed following consultation with local children and the relevant town and parish councils. It was noted that the works proposed in the Play Strategy are not funded within the capital programme.

RESOLVED that £250,000 be allocated in the 2018/19 capital programme and £250,000 in the 2019/20 capital programme for improvements to play areas and parks/open spaces.

Councillor S J Carr requested that it be recorded that he had voted in favour of the recommendation.

45.2 Leisure and Environment Committee

7 December 2017

Garden Waste Subscription Charges for 2018/19

The Committee received a report on Garden Waste Subscription Charges for 2018/19. An income target of £591,000 was set for the 2017/18 subscription period. 19,158 properties had subscribed to the 2017/18 service, generating an income of £621,000. It was proposed that the price for the first bin is increased to £32 and the price for additional bins is increased to £14. The price increases and changes in collection frequency would ensure that the provision of the garden waste collection service was in line with neighbouring authorities.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. The price for the first bin for 2018/19 be increased to £32.**
- 2. The price for the additional bins for 2018/19 be increased to £14.**

46. BUDGET CONSULTATION 2018/19

The Committee noted the results of the budget 2018/19 consultation exercise that took place during October and November 2017.

The following comments were amongst those noted:

- The number of citizens taking part in the consultation exercise under the age of 30 years was abysmal and was considered to skew the consultation outcomes.
- The participation in the consultation of 500 residents out of a population in excess of 100,000 was disappointing.
- There needed to be something broader than looking at engagement with young people since residents in the north of the Borough were not responding.

A proposal was put to the meeting by Councillor S J Carr that a member working group be formed by the Committee to consider ways of engaging under 30s in the Borough with the consultation exercise. The proposal was not seconded.

47. COUNCIL TAX BASE 2018/19

The Committee considered the Council Tax Base for the year 2018/19. It was suggested that “Beeston Area” was not an appropriate name for the Special Expenses Area as the area covers Bramcote, Chilwell and Toton as well as Beeston.

RESOLVED that based on the number of band D equivalent properties and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, Broxtowe Borough Council calculates its Council Tax Base for the year 2018/19 as follows:

1. For the whole of its area 33,448.29.
2. In respect of Parish Precepts and Special Expenses for those parts of its area mentioned in the table below, the amounts specified therein –

<u>Part of Council's Area</u>	<u>Area Council Tax Base</u>
Awsworth	614.08
Brinsley	688.93
Cossall	209.52
Eastwood	2,725.54
Greasley	3,673.87
Kimberley	1,772.69
Nuthall	2,260.64
Stapleford	4,021.34
Strelley	181.28
Trowell	810.14
 <u>Special Expenses Area</u>	
Beeston Area	16,490.26

48. LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2018/19

The Committee considered arrangements to operate in 2018/19 in respect of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme.

RESOLVED that it be RECOMMENDED to Council that the current LCTSS remains in place for 2018/19.

49. PARKING AND CCTV/SECURITY SERVICES – APPRENTICE POST

Members considered the proposal to recruit a two year fixed term apprentice in the Parking and CCTV/Security Services section.

The following comment was amongst those made by members:

In response to a question regarding the type of benefits, training, qualifications and progression opportunities for a potential apprentice officers advised that the successful candidate for the apprentice post would secure an appropriate qualification for entry into security, parking and traffic management or the CCTV industry.

It was noted that the appointment of an apprentice would enable the CCTV Manager to concentrate on higher level duties.

RESOLVED that a two year fixed term apprentice be recruited in the Parking and CCTV/Security Services section.

50. TOUR OF BRITAIN – NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LEG: SEPTEMBER 2018

The Committee considered the proposal to contribute to the costs associated with bringing the Nottinghamshire leg of the 2018 Tour of Britain to Broxtowe, should Broxtowe feature on the 2018 route.

RESOLVED that provision of £5,000 be made in the 2018/19 budget to assist with meeting the cost of funding the Tour of Britain if the Nottinghamshire leg comes to Broxtowe.

51. FOOD HYGIENE TECHNICAL OFFICER

Members considered the proposal to recruit a Food Hygiene Technical Officer in the Environmental Health team of the Public Protection division to enable inspections to be carried out of all food premises..

It was noted that the majority of the backlog of inspections related to low risk premises. The backlog of the higher risk premises had been completed by the external contractor.

Members were concerned as to whether or not one additional post would be sufficient to prevent a further backlog occurring and requested that quarterly updating reports be submitted to future meetings of this Committee, as well as the Community Safety Committee.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. A Food Hygiene Technical Officer (or an Environmental Health Officer (or an Environmental Health Officer if a Food Hygiene Technical Officer cannot be recruited) be appointed in the Environmental Health section.**
- 2. Quarterly update reports be submitted to this Committee and the Community Safety Committee.**

52. COMPLAINTS REPORT

The Committee noted the summary of and the length of time taken to acknowledge complaints made against the Council.

Members queried progress on the acknowledgement of complaints within the three day target and also in dealing with complaints generally. It was stated that the complaints officer had emailed all departments pursuant to the previous meeting to remind them of members' concerns. It was also stated that the latest Service Plan figures would demonstrate an improvement in response times. A question was asked regarding Quarter 3 figures. Officers confirmed that these would be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.

53. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered items for inclusion in its future Work Programme

RESOLVED that the Work Programme be approved with the addition of an update report on complaints..

54. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that, under Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

55. REPLACEMENT CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

RESOLVED that the contract for the supply and maintenance of a CRM system be placed with Meritec Ltd.